



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



Headteacher: Mr. S. Pearson



Dear Parent/Carer,

## Re: Reading Plus Review

### Why do we use Reading Plus?

After reviewing our home reading scheme last academic year and introducing Reading Plus in January this year, we have seen significant improvement with children's reading fluency and their accuracy to comprehend what they have read, in the time that we have been using the program. This was highlighted during lockdown, as teachers were able to monitor the progress of all children in their class. Although this is not the same as face to face teaching, Reading Plus has been a fantastic tool and has enabled many children to continue making good progress with their reading skills.

The program is designed to stretch children's reading speed and fluency, both independently and supported, while becoming proficient readers and lifelong learners. Through regular Reading Plus practice, reading will become easier, comprehension will increase, and your child will make meaningful connections between reading and learning.

### Next steps with Reading Plus

We were set to review the impact of Reading Plus in school during the Summer Term but due to Covid-19 and school closures, this was not possible. We are aware of some Americanisms, particularly within the higher levels, that are still popping up throughout books and vocabulary tasks. After speaking directly to the Reading Plus support team, they have assured us that we are following the UK version and they are working hard to ensure that these Americanisms are anglicised. They have started working from the lower levels up which is why they are more frequent in level G and beyond.

Whilst reviewing the impact of Reading Plus in school, it has been great to see that so many parents have been helping their children and encouraging them to use this online platform to develop their reading. However, after talking to a number of children in school, it has been highlighted that some parents are helping their children too much and their children are now on a level that is too challenging for them to complete independently. As a school, we are trying to build the resilience of our children and help them understand that we can't always score 100% and achieve the combos. Reading Plus should be completed independently at the appropriate level of challenge for your child. If your child is on a level that they can't complete without an adult supporting, we are more than happy to reset their account to a more appropriate level where they are able to work independently. This does not mean repeating the same books, but reading more books on each level – there is a variety to choose from in each category.

After reviewing our current practice, we have decided to make a few changes to the amount of reading expected in school and at home. To make good progress, Reading Plus statistics show that a minimum of 5 books and a vocabulary task should be completed each week – this is updated on a Monday morning. Children do have some time in school to complete Reading Plus tasks but the remainder should be completed as weekly homework.

Walmley Junior School, Walmley Ash Road, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1JB

T: 0121 351 1346 F: 0121 313 0194 W: [www.walmley-jun.bham.sch.uk](http://www.walmley-jun.bham.sch.uk) E: [enquiry@walmley-jun.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@walmley-jun.bham.sch.uk)

Respect ■ Honesty ■ Kindness ■ Generosity ■ Perseverance ■ Politeness ■ Conscientiousness

### How to make good progress

Level and number of books	Guidance
Pre-A (83 books) Level A (134 books) Level B (148 books) Level C (130 books)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read 5 books a week and 1 vocabulary task in total.</li><li>• Achieve 10 combos independently to move to the next level.</li></ul>
Level D (122 books) Level E (156 books) <b>Level E is the reading age of a Year 6 child</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read 5 books a week and 1 vocabulary task in total.</li><li>• Complete 90 books on level D before moving on.</li><li>• Complete 110 books on Level E before moving on.</li></ul>
Level F (171 books) Level G (174 books)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read 2 books a week and 1 vocabulary task in total.</li><li>• Enjoy reading your own choice of books from home or from the library.</li></ul>
Completed Level G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enjoy reading your own choice of books from home or the library 5 times a week.</li></ul>

Reading Plus is not a race and it is not beneficial for children if they are moving through the levels too quickly. We have introduced a competition element in school to encourage frequent reading from all children and this will focus on the accuracy/average comprehension score rather than the number of books you have read each week.

Thank you for your continued support with reading at home as we know you too want your child to be a proficient reader, have a good level of understanding of the text they are reading and develop their vocabulary.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S. Pearson  
Headteacher